



FAIRBANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 11, 2008

Time: 2145 hours

Incident: Missing Child

Case #: 08-22140

On Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at approximately 1706 hours, Fairbanks Police was notified of an 11 year old black male with autism that had gone missing from Joy Elementary School. The child was attending an after school Robotics class when he had a disagreement with a school official and was told to get a drink of water in order to calm down. Witnesses reported seeing the child grab his belongings and leave the school grounds at approximately 1530 hours.

Fairbanks Police immediately began a search of the area and utilized uniformed officers in addition to Volunteers in Policing to canvass select areas where the child was last believed seen. The school, child's residence, and other locations were searched and PAWS was notified to respond in efforts to locate the child.

When the child was not located, the Fairbanks Police began a specific area search of Fairbanks utilizing the "Target Notification" software. Target Notification is utilized to assist with emergency notifications and has been used in Fairbanks previously. The notification, which is a recorded message indicating the child's name, description, and location he went missing from went out to approximately 18,000 phone numbers. This was done at approximately 1942 hours and a recovery notification was sent out at approximately 2012 hours. The original notification targeted approximately 5,000 phone numbers prior to being cancelled and a recovery one being sent out.

Due to earlier notifications made by the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center to local cab companies, driver Craig Strawther of Eagle Yellow Cab Company located the child walking on Geist Road towards Loftus Road. Fairbanks Police responded and made contact with the child who was returned to his home.

App:

CC Mayor Strle
Press Board